

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 195961
ORIGIN EA-12

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DRAFTED BY EA/ANZ:CHTWINING/HEW:HSCHMIDT:SJN
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R 031845Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

UNCLAS STATE 195961

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: HLTH, AS

SUBJECT: CONFERENCE ON HEALTH INSURANCE MATTERS

REF: CANBERRA 6070

1. PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING MSG TO GWYN HOWELLS, DIR GEN,
COMMONWEALTH DEPT OF HEALTH IN CANBERRA FROM H. SCHMIDT,
OFFICE OF THE ASST. SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AT HEW. "REFER-
ENCE YOUR CABLE OF 2 AUGUST, WE APPRECIATE YOUR OFFER OF
ASSISTANCE IN PROVIDING OFFICERS FROM AUSTRALIAN DEPT OF
HEALTH TO BRIEF USG OFFICIALS REGARDING MEDIBANK ON 19
AND 20 SEPTEMBER IN WASHINGTON, D.C. AS STATED IN OUR 11
JULY CABLE TO DR. EVANS, WE WILL PAY FOR THE TRAVEL AND
RELATED EXPENSES OF THE OFFICERS WHO ARE SELECTED. WE
HOPE TWO OFFICERS CAN ATTEND. THE INITIAL SUGGESTION OF
DEPUTY DIR GEN NETTLE AND MEDIBANK GENERAL MANAGER WILLIAMS
WOULD BE MOST SATISFACTORY. US EMBASSY IN CANBERRA WILL
ADVISE OFFICERS DESIGNATED OF ARRANGEMENTS TO PURCHASE
AIRLINE TICKETS AND TO PAY RELATED BUSINESS EXPENSES.
PLEASE ADVISE US BY CABLE THROUGH THE AMERICAN EMBASSY OF
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PAGE 02 STATE 195961

THE NAMES OF THE OFFICERS WHO WILL ATTEND. UNLESS OFFICERS
PREFER OTHERWISE, WE WILL MAKE HOTEL RESERVATIONS, PENDING
NOTIFICATION FROM THEM OF ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE PLANS.

OFFICERS SHOULD PLAN TO ARRIVE ON OR BEFORE 18 SEPTEMBER
WITH EVENING RETURN ON 20 SEPTEMBER POSSIBLE. BRIEFING
WILL GENERALLY FOLLOW THE AREAS DESCRIBED IN OUR 11 JULY

CABLE. WE WILL PROVIDE FURTHER ELABORATION TO THE OFFICERS WHO ARE DESIGNATED. THANK YOU AGAIN FOR HELPING US IN OUR EFFORTS TO DEVELOP A NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM."

2. FOR EMBASSY: DETAILS WILL FOLLOW ON ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS. VANCE

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NNN

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